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Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EUR-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JMORDWAY
APPROVED BY S/PRS: FREDERICK Z. BROWN
S/ - MR. SEBASTIAN
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P 282043Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 068329 TOSEC 030040

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, MONDAY MORNING 3/28

NO. 3

NEWSPAPERS

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM MOSCOW

HEADLINE: "VANCE: ARMS TALKS OFF TO CORDIAL START"

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE SAYS HE HAS HAD A "VERY CORDIAL" RECEPTION SO FAR FROM THE SOVIETS AND THINKS IT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT (SALT II) WITH THE RUSSIANS WITHIN SIX MONTHS.
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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE RELAXED AND OPTIMISTIC AT PRESS CONF.

-- SECSTATE SEEMED TO INDICATE A DE-EMPHASIS ON HUMAN

RIGHTS

-- NOTED "TOO BUSY" REPLY TO SOVIET DISSIDENTS

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-- VANCE HAD "VERY GOOD DISCUSSION" WITH GROMYKO ON ARRIVAL

-- NEW SALT AGREEMENT POSSIBLE BY OCTOBER IF EVERYONE WORKS HARD AT IT

-- VANCE NOT SURE IF HE WOULD MEET BREZHNEV, BUT PREPARED TO STAY ON 1-3 DAYS IF NECESSARY.

-- CARTER ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO "SENSITIZE" INTL COMMUNITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM

HEARST

JOHN WALLACH FROM MOSCOW IN BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN

PAGE ONE STORY. HEADLINE: "VANCE IS PREPARED FOR 'REAL PROGRESS'"

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, DECLARING THAT 'THE TIME HAS COME TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE SOME REAL PROGRESS,' YESTERDAY PROPOSED TO SOVIET LEADERS A COMPREHENSIVE NEW STRATEGIC ARMS PACKAGE THAT WOULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON BOTH SIDES."

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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE HOPED HUMAN RIGHTS STAND WOULD NOT COMPLICATE SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

-- VANCE DISCLOSED THAT A NUMBER OF DISSIDENTS AND ACTIVISTS HAD ASKED TO SEE HIM BUT HE IS TOO BUSY.

-- ALTHOUGH VANCE WILL NOT RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS IN OPENING STATEMENT, HE IS PREPARED TO DEFEND CARTER ADMINISTRATION STAND BY POINTING OUT THAT ISSUE TRANSCENDS INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

-- VANCE EXPECTED TO GET EARFUL OF PROTEST ON SUBJECT.

-- APPEARS TO BE AN UNEASY TRUCE, WITH SOVIET GOVT REFRAINING FROM ANY SPECIAL ROUNDUPS OR CRACKDOWNS, AND DISSIDENTS AVOIDING DEMONSTRATIONS THAT WOULD PROVOKE KREMLIN ACTION.

-- VANCE TRIED TO SHIFT FOCUS ALMOST ENTIRELY TO SALT, TELLING NEWSMEN HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON US-PROPOSED REDUCTIONS.

-- VANCE PREPARED TO EXTEND STAY IF NECESSARY.

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-- AGREEMENT POSSIBLE BY OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO VANCE.

-- US WILLING TO LIMIT CRUISE MISSILES ONLY IN COMPREHEN-
SIVE APPROACH.

-- DESPITE SOME CONCERN IN EMBASSY CIRCLES, GROMYKO SHOWED
UP TO GREET VANCE, AND BREZHNEV WAS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT
AT OPENING NEGOTIATING SESSION. - -

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
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JERRY ANTEVIL FROM MOSCOW

PAGE 1 STORY WITH PICTURE OF VANCE. HEADLINE: "VANCE:
TOO BUSY TO SEE MOSCOW DISSIDENTS, JEWS"

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD REFUSED
TO MEET WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS OR JEWISH ACTIVISTS HERE
BECAUSE HE WAS TOO BUSY NEGOTIATING WITH RUSSIAN LEADERS
ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AND OTHER ISSUES.

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE CONFIRMED TO REPORTERS HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO MEET
WITH GROUPS, BUT WOULD BE TOO BUSY.

-- IN MOVE TO PLAY DOWN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, VANCE SAID HE
WOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE IN OPENING REMARKS.

-- VANCE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IF RAISED BY
RUSSIANS.

-- PRAVDA COMMENTARY NOTED US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAD
UNDERMINED RELATIONS AND THREATENED PROGRESS ON SALT.

-- PRAVDA BLAMED CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR DELAY ON AGREE-
MENT. --

-- VANCE BRUSHED OFF PRAVDA CRITICISM AND SAID "WE'RE NOW
HERE AND PREPARED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS."

-- VANCE SAID US WOULD LAY ITS PROPOSALS ON TABLE TODAY,
CALLING FOR EITHER A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT, OR MORE
LIMITED REAFFIRMATION OF 1974 ACCORD.

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CHRISTOPHER WREN FROM MOSCOW

PAGE 2 STORY WITH PICTURE OF VANCE. HEADLINE: "VANCE, IN SOVIET, SAYS HE'S READY TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC ARMS CUTS"

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE 'DETAILED DISCUSSIONS' ON LIMITING NUCLEAR STRATEGIC WEAPONS AS SOON AS SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS BEGAN IN THE KREMLIN TOMORROW."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE PROMISED TO INVEST THE TIME NECESSARY TO GET A NEW PACT.

-- VANCE SEEKS "DEEP CUTS" IN 2400 CEILING.

-- VANCE SPENT SUNDAY "FINE-TUNING" AMERICAN PROPOSALS WITH ADVISERS.

-- VANCE'S PUBLIC DECLARATION OF HOPE CONTRASTED WITH PRAVDA'S CHILLIER SKEPTICISM.

-- AT SNACK BAR NEWS CONF, VANCE SAID HE DID NOT PLAN TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS AT OPENING SESSION.

-- PRAVDA COMMENTARY SEEN AS ATTEMPT TO FIX BLAME IN ADVANCE IF TALKS DO NOT PRODUCE NEW AGREEMENT.

-- SECSTATE MADE LIGHT OF PRESS SNIPING ACCOMPANYING ARRIVAL, SAYING TALKS WITH GROMYKO "CORDIAL" ON RIDE IN FROM AIRPORT.

-- AMERICAN SIDE TO PRESENT TWO OPTIONS: REDUCTION IN VLADIVOSTOK CEILING; AND SETTING ASIDE BACKFIRE AND CRUISE
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UNTIL LATER.

-- VANCE DID NOT DISCUSS NUMBERS, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT REDUCTION GOAL IS 25 PERCENT.

-- SECSTATE EXPECTED TALKS TO INCLUDE AFRICAN AND MIDEAST

SITUATIONS, AS WELL AS FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND EMBASSY MICROWAVE PROBLEM. MAIN FOCUS ARMS REDUCTION, THOUGH.

-- NEW, COMPREHENSIVE PACT COULD BE REACHED BY OCTOBER IF EVERYONE WORKED HARD.

-- VANCE UNCERTAIN IF BREZHNEV WOULD TAKE PART IN TALKS.

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WALL STREET JOURNAL

PAGE 2 STORY. HEADLINE: "US TO OFFER TO CURB NEW-WEAPON PLANS IF SOVIETS APPROVE NUCLEAR-ARSENAL CUTS"

KENNETH BACON FROM MOSCOW

EAD: "THE US HOPES TO WIN SOVIET APPROVAL OF AN ARMS-
LEAD: "THE US HOPES TO WIN SOVIET APPROVAL OF AN ARMS-CONTROL AGREEMENT REQUIRING SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY OFFERING TO CURB THE AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO THE SOVIETS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- TRADE OFF - RESTRAINTS ON WEAPON PROGRAMS WHERE US HAS LEADERSHIP FOR REDUCTION IN CEILINGS - IS CENTRAL ELEMENT IN NEW PROPOSAL.

-- VANCE WON'T DISCUSS DETIALS OF US PROPOSALS, BUT US OFFICIALS SAY IT CALLS FOR:
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--- SHARP REDUCTION IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS, PERHAPS TO 1500 OR 1600.

--- CEILING OF 1000 OR LOWER ON MIRV'S.

--- CRUISE MISSILE RESTRICTION.

--- RESTRAINTS ON NEW WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MX AND MOBILE LAUNCHERS.

-- FALL-BACK POSITION IS ADOPTION OF VLADIVOSTOK LIMITS, WHICH FAILED LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT OVER CRUISE AND BACKFIRE.

-- US HOPES FOR LEVERAGE BY INSISTING SOVIETS MUST AGREE ON COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE TO GET RESTRICTIONS ON CRUISE AND MX.

-- VANCE SAYS ESSENTIALS OF COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE ARE FUNDAMENTAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

-- SOVIETS' PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ALL THIS NOT ENCOURAGING.

-- PRAVDA ARTICLE BLAMING US FOR FAILURE TO AGREE.

-- VANCE HOPES TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR WORKING OUT DETAILS OF NEW SALT PACKAGE IN GENEVA BEFORE OCTOBER.

-- DESPITE SOVIET PIQUE, VANCE SAYS HIS CONTACTS HAVE BEEN

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CORDIAL.

WASHINGTON POST

MURREY MARDER AND PETER OSNOS FROM MOSCOW

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PAGE 1 STORY. HEADLINE: "SOVIETS CRITICIZE US ON SALT, HUMAN RIGHTS"

LEAD: THE SOVIET UNION TODAY UNDERSCORED ITS DISPLEASURE WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S STAND ON BOTH HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AS SECSTATE VANCE WAS 'FINE-TUNING' THE NUCLEAR FORMULA HE WILL PRESENT MONDAY MORNING IN THE KREMLIN."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SOVIET STRATEGY OPENLY AIMED AT PUTTING US ON DEFENSIVE.

-- PRAVDA CRITICIZED US FOR ALLOWING SALT STALEMATE TO CONTINUE AND FOR INTERFERING IN INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS BY "A FAR-FETCHED PLEA OF 'PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.'"

-- VANCE SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS IN OPENING STATEMENT MONDAY.

-- VANCE SAID HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH ANY DISSIDENTS NOR, AMERICAN SOURCES SAID, WILL ANY OF HIS PRINCIPAL AIDES.

-- MAIN SOVIET CRITIQUE ON SALT, WHICH HAS BEEN "DRAGGED" ON FOR AN "UNPARDONABLE LONG TIME."

-- PRAVDA ALSO TOOK A "BACKHAND POKE" AT PRES CARTER'S OUTLINE OF SALT STRATEGY AT PRESS CONF BY SAYING THAT "NO CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS ARE SO FAR IN VIEW."

-- VANCE SAID US HAS NOT BEEN UNDULY LONG IN ASSEMBLING NEGOTIATING POSITION. US HAS SOUND PROPOSALS AND IS PREPARED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.

-- VANCE SAID AGREEMENT POSSIBLE BY OCT 3 DEADLINE. "PRI-
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VATELY, HOWEVER, EVEN ADMINISTRATION OFFCIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ODDS AGAINST ATTAINING THAT OBJECTIVE ARE GREAT UNLESS THERE IS A MAJOR TURNABOUT IN THE SOVIET OUTLOOK."

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-- US IS PROPOSING TWO OPTIONS AND SOVIET LEADERS PLAINLY DISLIKE BOTH OF THEM FROM WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN SO FAR.

-- VANCE DOWNPLAYED SIGNS OF SOVIET IRRITATION.

-- VANCE SAID HE TOLD GROMYKO THAT IF TALKS ARE MAKING PROGRESS HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO STAY AS LONG AS NECESSARY. VANCE WAS ENCOURAGED BY GROMYKO'S RESPONSE.

-- GROMYKO, IN UNUSUAL ROLE, PLAYED HOST FOR VANCE AT BALLET.

-- AMERICANS STILL DID NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE BREZHNEV WOULD PLAY, WITH KISSINGER, BREZHNEV LED SOVIET DELEGATION.

RADIO/TV

ABC
ABC
BARRIE DUNSMORE ON "GOOD MORNING, AMERICA"
- -
TOM JARRIEL: ... AMERICAN AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS BEGAN THEIR TALKS ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROLIN MOSCOW. SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV LEADING THE RUSSIANS, SECSTATE VANCE LEADING THE AMERICAN TEAM, THE TALKS GETTING OFF TO A SOMEWHAT ROCKY START WITH THE RUSSIANS TELLING THE AMERICANS AT THE START CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERFERENCE IN RUSSIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

DUNSMORE: VANCE WENT TO THE BOLSHOI BALLET LAST NIGHT
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ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET FORNMIN GROMYKO. IN SPITE OF RECENT

SNIPING FROM BOTH SIDES OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, AND THE TWO MEN SEEMED TO BE GETTING ALONG FINE.

THIS MORNING, INSIDE THE KREMLIN, THE FIRST FORMAL SESSION BEGAN WHERE VANCE SUBMITTED TO LEONID BREZHNEV US PROPOSALS FOR ARMS LIMITATIONS. VANCE SUGGESTED ONE OF TWO FORMULAS, A COMPREHENSIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT INCLUDING DEEP CUTS IN THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO NUMBER OF STRATEGIC LAUNCH VEHICLES, OR QUICK RATIFICATION OF ALL THOSE POINTS PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO ON SALT, WITH A DEFERRAL OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES OF THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE BACKFIRE BOMBER UNTIL THE NEXT NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIETS HAVE PREVIOUSLY SHOWN NO INTEREST IN EITHER FORMULA, ALTHOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE THIS MORNING WAS DESCRIBED AS VERY FRIENDLY.

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THERE WERE NO PICTURES OF THE OPENING SESSION BECAUSE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS COVERING THE EVENT WERE HAVING THEIR OWN STAND-OFF WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES. OUT OF 77 ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS, THE SOVIETS WERE ONLY GOING TO ALLOW 7 IN TO RECORD THE FIRST SESSION. SECRETARY VANCE HAS TAKEN UP THE AMERICAN PRESS CAUSE, AND IT'S BELIEVED THE SOVIETS WILL COME AROUND WITH A MORE ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE LATER TODAY.

AS THIS IS THE VERY FIRST CONTACT AT THIS LEVEL BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE VANCE VISIT HAS A SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND THE ATTEMPT TO SET A FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE TALKS WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO SIDES TO SIZE EACH OTHER UP. THIS IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE RUSSIANS, WHO ARE DEALING WITH VIRTUALLY A WHOLE NEW AMERICAN NEGOTIATING TEAM. MOREOVER, THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THESE TALKS WILL SET THE TONE FOR THE FUTURE OF UNCLASSIFIED

US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

CBS

1. SUNDAY EVENING TV NEWS.

MORTON DEAN: DOES PRES CARTER PLAN TO SOFTEN HIS CRITI-CISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION? NO, ANSWERED PRESIDENTIAL NEWS SECRETARY JODY POWELL TODAY. BUT IN MOSCOW, SECSTATE VANCE APPARENTLY ISN'T GOING TO PUSH THE IDEA. HE DECLINED TO MEET WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS TODAY AT THEIR INVITATION. VANCE IS IN MOSCOW TO TALK ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION. MORE FROM BERNARD KALB.

KALB: SECRETARY VANCE SPENT A GOOD PART OF HIS FIRST DAY IN MOSCOW FINE TUNING THE US PROPOSALS THAT HE'LL PRESENT TO THE KREMLIN. AND DESPITE SOVIET RESISTANCE TO A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE THAT WOULD REDUCE THE NUCLEAR ARMS CEILING, VANCE TOLD REPORTERS HE STILL BELIEVED IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY THE TIME THE CURRENT ARMS AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN OCTOBER. AND VANCE REJECTED A SOVIET IMPLICATION PUBLISHED IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA TODAY THAT THE US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACT THAT A NEW AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED.

(THEN FOLLOWED VANCE SPEAKING ON EDITORIAL)

TONIGHT VANCE, CELEBRATING HIS SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY, WENT TO THE THEATER, THE WORLD-FAMOUS BOLSHOI, TO SEE THE BALLET ANNA KARENINA. THE SECRETARY AND FM GROMYKO EMERGED SIDE BY SIDE TONIGHT, ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TABLE TO-MORROW AS NEGOTIATING ADVERSARIES.

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VANCE CANNOT BE SURE AT THIS POINT WHETHER THE NEGOTI-
ATIONS WILL SUCCEED. HE HOPES THEY WILL. AND HE'S TOLD
GROMYKO THAT, IF THE THREE DAYS OF SCHEDULED TALKS PRODUCE
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PROGRESS, HE'D BE DELIGHTED TO STAY ON IN MOSCOW ANOTHER
DAY, TWO OR THREE, WHATEVER IS REQUIRED TO REACH AN
AGREEMENT.

2. CBS-TV MORNING NEWS

HUGHES RUDD: THERE WAS A CORDIAL START TODAY TO A NEW
ROUND OF SOVIET-AMERICAN STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS
IN MOSCOW. SECSTATE VANCE AND SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV
EXCHANGED THE CUSTOMARY PLEASANTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF
PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND THEN THEY GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS.

KALB: THE KREMLIN WAS ENSHROUDED IN A WET, GREY MORNING
POLKADOTTED WITH LIGHT SNOW AS THE VANCE-BREZHNEV TALKS
OPENED HERE, THESE TALKS REPRESENTING THE FIRST FACE-TO-
FACE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE
LEADERS OF THE KREMLIN. NO AMERICAN ON-THE-SPOT NEWS
COVERAGE OR FILM OF THIS MEETING, DUE TO COMPLICATIONS.
MORE ABOUT THIS LATER. BUT THE TALKS INSIDE THIS COL-
LECTION OF OLD ROYAL PALACES DATING BACK TO THE DAYS OF
THE CZARS, THESE TALKS COME AT A TIME OF STRAINED RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DUE IN PART TO THE ISSUE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE TWO SIDES ARE TRYING TO BREAK THE STALEMATE BLOCKING
THE NEW AGREEMENT TO CONTROL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. A US
SPOKESMAN SAID THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE START OF THE TALKS

WAS CORDIAL AND VERY WARM. THE RUSSIANS WERE ALSO RE-
PORTED TO BE UNHAPPY THAT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WERE NOT
PRESENT TO TAKE PICTURES THAT BREZHNEV SAID WOULD BE GOOD
MEMORIES 100 YEARS FROM NOW.

THE TALKS GOT STARTED AFTER A FLAP DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE
FIFTEEN OR SO AMERICAN REPORTERS TRAVELLING WITH VANCE,
AND WITH THE KREMLIN. THE REPORTERS WERE IN THE PRESS
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ROOM AT THE INTOURIST HOTEL WHEN THE TALKS BEGAN. WHAT
HAPPENED WAS THAT A POOL OF SEVEN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS
HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE KREMLIN TO COVER THE OPENING OF
THE TALKS, BUT THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS PASSED THE WORD
THAT UNLESS ALL THE CORRESPONDENTS WERE ADMITTED AS THEY
WERE AT LAST YEAR'S TALKS, NONE WOULD GO. A US SPOKESMAN

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SAID VANCE HAD PERSONALLY INTERCEDED, SUGGESTING THAT THE RUSSIANS ALLOW FIFTEEN AMERICANS IN, BUT THE WORD CAME BACK THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE STICKING WITH THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER OF SEVEN. SO, NO AMERICAN REPORTERS WERE THERE.

BOTH SIDES WILL ENGAGE IN HARD BARGAINING, BOTH SIDES EXPECTED TO HANG TOUGH, PARTICUARLY AT THE OUTSET OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. AT THIS POINT, NO ONE CAN SAY FOR SURE WHETHER THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL ULTIMATELY SUCCEED OR FAIL.

NBC

RICHARD VALERIANI ON "TODAY SHOW"

THE TALKS ARE UNDER WAY HERE IN THE KREMLIN IN AN AT-MOSPHERE DESCRIBED AS CORDIAL. VANCE BROUGHT BREZHNEV WARMEST REGARDS FROM PRES CARTER, AND THE SOVIET LEADER REPLIED BY SENDING HIS HEARTFELT GOOD WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT. AFTER SOME BANTER ABOUT SMOKING CIGARETTES -- BREZHNEV DOES, VANCE DOESN'T -- THE FIVE-MAN AMERICAN DELEGATION MADE OUT TWO PROPOSALS FOR LIMITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ONE, A FREEZE AT ROUGHLY EXISTING LEVELS, THE OTHER CALLING FOR DEEP CUTS. VANCE SAID BEFOREHAND HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE UNLESS THE RUSSIANS RAISED IT FIRST.

NO AMERICAN REPORTERS WERE PRESENT AT THE OPENING SESSION BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS, FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, RESTRICTED THE NUMBER PERMITTED TO ATTEND, AND THE AMERICAN NEWSMEN

DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE MEETING RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE RESTRICTION.

VANCE'S VISIT HERE WILL PROVIDE THE FIRST REAL TEST OF HOW

MUCH PRES CARTER'S OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HERE IS AFFECTING AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL, AND THE EFFORTS TO SLOW DOWN THE ARMS RACE IN PARTICULAR.

WIRES

AP

KEN FREED FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV STARTED A QUEST FOR A NEW NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT TODAY WITH THE CUSTOMARY EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS."

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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE ACCOMPANIED BY WARNKE, DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY (SIC) OF STATE HABIB, WILLIAM HIGHLAND (SIC) OF THE NSC AND AMBASSADOR TOON.

-- VANCE TOLD SUNDAY NEWS CONF PROBLEMS WHICH BLOCKED SALT AGREEMENT "ARE SOMETHING OF THE PAST" AND HE IS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

-- VANCE PLANNED TO PROPOSE A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY. INFORMED SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE CARTER ADMIN WANTS AN 1800 LIMIT, 600 LESS THAN THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILING.

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NICHOLAS DANILOFF FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV WARNED SECSTATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN HAS INTRUDED INTO SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COULD MAKE IMPOSSIBLE 'THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.'"

OTHER POINTS:

-- QUOTED FROM TASS ACCOUNT OF MEETING.

-- BREZHNEV STRESSED SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO MAKE EFFORT TO EASE STRAINS AND FIND "MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS."

-- US DEL HAD NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON TASS REPORT, BUT CONFIRMED VANCE HAD PRESENTED THE TWO SALT PROPOSALS.

-- "THE TASS ACCOUNT OF BREZHNEV'S REMARKS WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY CONVOLUTED BUT ITS ESSENTIAL WARNING ABOUT THE CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WAS CLEAR."

-- DESPITE IMPLICIT THREAT, SOVIETS REMAINED CORDIAL, BOTH AT TALKS AND LUNCHEON. VANCE AND GROMYKO CHATTED FOR 10 MINUTES AT LUNCH WHILE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WATCHED.

-- BREZHNEV'S INTERPRETER, SUKHODREV, TOLD A WESTERN REPORTER THAT FIRST SESSION "WENT VERY WELL."

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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